

Original filed on:

PRIME MINISTER: PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

International

Commitments: Dec 1983

PRIME MINISTER

c Mr Ingham

VISITS ABROAD 1986

We have relatively few plans for you to travel abroad next year. The only fixed dates are:

- visit to Lille for Channel Fixed Link announcement on 20 January.
- Anglo/Italian bilaterals in Florence on 12 March (eighteen months since last one).
- European Council on 20/21 March. But this may fall away.
- visit to Korea 2/3 May.
- Tokyo Economic Summit 4/6 May.
- European Council on 26/28 June.

We shall have to find dates for Anglo/French and Anglo/German bilaterals towards the middle of the year (including a visit to BAOR in connection with the German one). You may also have to pay some brief visits to European capitals during our Presidency of the Community in the second half of the year.

I have noted that you do NOT want to travel during the Easter recess (28 March-6 April). ✓

Against this background you may wish to consider the following ideas:

(i) Visit to Israel

This is the balancing visit for your visits to Egypt and Jordan. It needs 48 hours, and will only proceed if Mr. Perez is Prime Minister. You may like to consider dates in the Whitsun recess (26 May-1 June).

Agree?

*Not very keen. - Too soon after his visit here*

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(ii) Visit to Norway

You have long expressed an interest in this. The problem over acid rain may cast a bit of a blight: equally you will be able to put up a more robust statement of our case than anyone else. September is a good time. And you could combine it with a visit to British (NATO) forces in north Norway. Agree?

*Yes not*

(iii) Expo 86 in Vancouver

This will be the occasion for a major export drive in a rich market. British day could be either Tuesday 8 July or Saturday 12 July (when the Royal Ballet will be staging a world premiere). July is of course very far from ideal for you. But it could be done by Concorde (extra costs borne by British Airways), going out on the Friday and back early on the Monday. Worth a thought: it'll be your principal opportunity next year for export promotion. Agree to consider?

*Yes not*

(iv) Visit to Spain

The Foreign Secretary has more than once suggested that you should visit Spain in the second half of next year. I am not sure whether this is a good idea in the light of the Spanish Government's recent behaviour over Gibraltar. And we already have the King's visit here in the early part of the year. My inclination would be to defer judgement on this. Agree to defer? ✓

These are the only specific proposals on the table. There are three more possibilities worth touching on:

(i) Soviet Union

You have more than once referred to the possibility of resuming your dialogue with Gorbachev. You agree (I think) that it would not be right to move ahead too fast on this, and that the first step is for Sherdnadze to come here (probably in April/May). A visit to the Soviet Union would be a pretty big step.

The only thought which occurs to me is to suggest that Gorbachev might stop over here on the way to or from the next Summit meeting with President Reagan. Agree to discuss with Foreign Secretary?

(ii) Africa

Apart from the CHOGM in Lusaka in 1979 you have not (I think) been to sub-Saharan Africa as Prime Minister. Given the prominence now assumed in the press and public debate of famine and third world problems generally, you may feel that a brief visit to selected African countries would be worthwhile. In that case Kenya, Malawi and Cameroon would be candidates as sensible, moderate governments which have tried to concentrate on feeding their own people. This could be done in a week in September. Any interest? Or drop from consideration? *Not*

(iii) Latin America

Personally I don't see much to be gained except perhaps by a visit to Brazil (and The Queen is going there). Agree not to pursue this?

*C.D.P.*

C.D POWELL

16 September 1985

\* It's just conceivable that you would wish to consider a visit to South Africa if the eminent persons made great progress. But this must be unlikely.

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